Ford Rips Crimes With Guns

Favors Death Penalty When Injury Occurs

HASBROUCK HEIGHTS, N.J., April 3 (UPI) — Former president Gerald R. Ford says people who commit crimes with guns should get the death penalty whenever they injure someone else.

Responding to reporters' questions about the assassination attempt on President Reagan, Ford said there should be mandatory sentences for people who commit crimes with guns and "capital punishment if someone is injured."

He opposed registration or other gun-control measures, and said the country would never be able to outlaw handguns because such an attempt would cause a revolt by millions of hunters.

But the former president said it might be wise to "take discretion away from the judges" in determining sentences.

Ford made the comments while speaking at a fund-raiser for Republican gubernatorial candidate Thomas Kean here Thursday.